

**IN THE CLAIMS**

All claims from the parent application have been deleted, and this continuation-in-part application filed herewith has added the following claims beginning on page 92, line 2 through page 97, line 13.

1. A vertebral stabilization assembly for stabilizing vertebrae, the assembly comprising:
  - a first vertebral screw having a shaft provided with a threaded portion operable for threading engagement of the first vertebral screw with a vertebral body of a first vertebra, the shaft having an engaging portion;
  - a first connecting screw having a first end and a second end, the first end adapted to be received by the engaging portion of the first vertebral screw;
  - a second vertebral screw having a shaft provided with a threaded portion operable for threading engagement of the second vertebral screw with a vertebral body of a second vertebra, the shaft having an engaging portion;
  - a second connecting screw having a first end and a second end, the first end adapted to be received by the engaging portion of the second vertebral screw; and
  - a connecting member having a first end, a second end, a first location and a second location, wherein the connecting member is operable to couple with the first connecting screw positionable in the first vertebra at the first location of the connecting member, and the

connecting member is operable to couple with the second connecting screw positionable in the second vertebra at the second location of the connecting member for stabilization of the first vertebra and the second vertebra.

2. The vertebral stabilization assembly of Claim 1, wherein the first vertebral screw is operable to be positioned in the first vertebra from an anterior side of the first vertebra into the vertebral body of the first vertebra, and the second vertebral screw is operable to be positioned in the second vertebra from an anterior side of the second vertebra into the vertebral body of the second vertebra.

3. The vertebral stabilization assembly of Claim 2, wherein the first vertebral screw is operable to be positioned through the vertebral body of the first vertebra and into a pedicle portion of the first vertebra, and the second vertebral screw is operable to be positioned through the vertebral body of the second vertebra and into a pedicle portion of the second vertebra.

4. The vertebral stabilization assembly of Claim 2, wherein the first vertebral screw is operable to be positioned through the vertebral body of the first vertebra but not into a pedicle portion of the first vertebra, and the second vertebral screw is operable to be positioned

through the vertebral body of the second vertebra but not into a pedicle portion of the second vertebra.

5. The vertebral stabilization assembly of Claim 1, wherein the first vertebral screw is a first anterior vertebral screw, and the second vertebral screw is a second anterior vertebral screw.

6. The vertebral stabilization assembly of Claim 1, wherein the first vertebral screw is a first pedicle screw, and the second vertebral screw is a second pedicle screw.

7. The vertebral stabilization assembly of Claim 1, wherein the connecting member is coupled to the first connecting screw adjacent the second end of the first connecting screw, wherein the connecting member is coupled to the second connecting screw adjacent the second end of the second connecting screw.

8. The vertebral stabilization assembly of Claim 7, wherein the first location of the connecting member is at the first end of the connecting member, wherein the second location of the connecting member is at the second end of the connecting member.

9. The vertebral stabilization assembly of Claim 1, wherein the connecting member is coupled to the first connecting screw at the second end of the first connecting screw, wherein the connecting member is coupled to the

second connecting screw at the second end of the second connecting screw.

10. The vertebral stabilization assembly of Claim 1, wherein a first cutout portion is provided at an anterior side of the first vertebra, and a second cutout portion is provided at an anterior side of the second vertebra, the connecting member operable to reside within the first cutout portion and the second cutout portion when coupled with the first connecting screw and the second connecting screw.

11. A method for stabilizing a lower vertebra and an upper vertebra from an anterior side of the vertebrae using a vertebral stabilization assembly, the method comprising: inserting a first vertebral screw, which includes a shaft provided with a threaded portion operable to threadingly engage the lower vertebra, into the lower vertebra from an anterior side of the lower vertebra such that a portion of the threaded portion of the shaft engages a vertebral body portion of the lower vertebra, the shaft of the first vertebral screw having an engaging portion operable to receive a first connecting screw, and the shaft of the first vertebral screw having a coupling portion operable to couple with a guide member; inserting a second vertebral screw, which includes a shaft provided with a threaded portion operable to threadingly engage the upper vertebra, into the upper

vertebra from an anterior side of the upper vertebra such that a portion of the threaded portion of the shaft engages a vertebral body portion of the upper vertebra, the shaft of the second vertebral screw having an engaging portion operable to receive a second connecting screw, and the shaft of the second vertebral screw having a coupling portion operable to couple with the guide member;

locating the coupling portion of the shaft of the first vertebral screw from an anterior side of the lower vertebra;

coupling the guide member to the coupling portion of the shaft of the first vertebral screw from the anterior side of the lower vertebra;

inserting a lower connecting screw, which includes a first end adapted to be received by the engaging portion of the first vertebral screw and a second end, the lower connecting screw inserted through the anterior side of the lower vertebra using the guide member;

locating the coupling portion of the shaft of the second vertebral screw from an anterior side of the upper vertebra;

coupling the guide member to the coupling portion of the shaft of the second vertebral screw from the anterior side of the upper vertebra;

inserting an upper connecting screw, which includes a first end adapted to be received by the engaging portion of the second vertebral screw and a second end, the upper

connecting screw inserted through the anterior side of the upper vertebra using the guide member; and connecting the second end of the lower connecting screw of the lower vertebra to the second end of the upper connecting screw of the upper vertebra with a connecting member.

12. The method of Claim 11, wherein the first vertebral screw is operable to be positioned through the vertebral body of the lower vertebra and into a pedicle portion of the lower vertebra, and the second vertebral screw is operable to be positioned through the vertebral body of the upper vertebra and into a pedicle portion of the upper vertebra.

13. The method of Claim 12, wherein the first vertebral screw is operable to be positioned through the vertebral body of the lower vertebra but not into a pedicle portion of the lower vertebra, and the second vertebral screw is operable to be positioned through the vertebral body of the upper vertebra but not into a pedicle portion of the upper vertebra.

14. The method of Claim 11, wherein a first cutout portion is provided at an anterior side of the lower vertebra, and a second cutout portion is provided at an anterior side of the upper vertebra, the connecting member operable to reside within the first cutout portion and the

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CONTINUATION-IN-PART  
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second cutout portion when coupled with the lower  
connecting screw and the upper connecting screw.

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CONTINUATION-IN-PART  
APPLICATION REMARKS

**IN THE DRAWINGS**

This Continuation-in-Part Application filed herewith  
includes added Figures 28 and 29.